

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 13, 14, and 17 and add Claims 19-21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for indicating the history of the environmental conditions of the environment in which said apparatus is used before a unit thereof is reconditioned for reuse to permit a determination of the level of deterioration of a recoverable and reusable unit of said apparatus and a determination of whether the recoverable and reusable unit can be recovered and reused, said apparatus comprising:

a recoverable and reusable unit performing a function independent of determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and ~~resuable~~ reusable unit, which is recoverable and reusable after use of said unit and said apparatus in the environment, depending on the level of deterioration of said unit, which depends on the history of environmental conditions of the environment in which said apparatus was used; and

an environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means for indicating the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and resuable unit before said unit is reconditioned for reuse in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used, said environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means being disposed inside said [[t]] apparatus apparatus [[t]], said environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means having a property variable in accordance with the history of the conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used, said environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus, said environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and resuable unit before said unit is reconditioned for reuse by permitting a determination of the value of the

property thereof, variable in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used,

wherein said environmental history indicator member means maintains the state of deterioration of the property.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 11 or 13, wherein said environmental history indicator member means has an environmental resistivity equal to or less than an environmental resistivity of said unit with respect to such an environmental factor that has an adverse effect on a service life of said unit.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said environmental history indicator member means is arranged to be mountable and dismountable on and from a body of said apparatus either singly or together with said unit and is formed in such a shape as to enable an inspection device to measure a property of said environmental history indicator member means in a state of being dismounted from the body of said apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said unit includes an optical member, and said environmental history indicator member means has a property which varies according to an environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for indicating the history of the environmental conditions of the environment in which said apparatus is used before a unit thereof is reconditioned for reuse to permit a determination of the level of deterioration of a recoverable

and reusable unit of said apparatus and a determination of whether the recoverable and reusable unit can be recovered and reused, said apparatus comprising:

a recoverable and reusable unit performing a function independent of determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, which is recoverable and reusable after use of said unit and said apparatus in the environment, depending on the level of deterioration of said unit, which depends on the history of environmental conditions of the environment in which said apparatus was used; and

an environmental history indicator member disposed inside said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member having a property variable in accordance with the history of the conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used, said environmental history indicator member being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit before said unit is reconditioned for reuse by permitting a determination of the value of the property thereof, variable in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used,

wherein said environmental history indicator member maintains the state of deterioration of the property, according to claim 4,

wherein said unit includes an optical member, and said environmental history indicator member has a property which varies according to an environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity, and

wherein said environmental history indicator member is an optical filter having a light transmitting property which varies according to any environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said optical filter as said environmental history indicator member is composed of an ND filter, copper phosphate glass, gelatin or optical glass having a refractive index of substantially 1.6 to 1.65 and an Abbe number of substantially 60.

7. (Currently Amended) A management system for an apparatus for indicating the history of the environmental conditions of the environment in which the apparatus is used before a unit thereof is reconditioned for reuse to permit a determination of the level of deterioration of a recoverable and reusable unit of the apparatus and a determination of whether the recoverable and reusable unit can be recovered and reused, the apparatus comprising a recoverable and reusable unit performing a function independent of determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, which is recoverable and reusable after use of the unit and the apparatus in the environment, depending on the level of deterioration of the unit, which depends on the history of environmental conditions of the environment in which the apparatus was used, and an environmental history indicator member means for indicating the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit before said unit is reconditioned for reuse in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used, said environmental history indicator means being disposed inside the [[t]] apparatus apparatus [[t]], the environmental history indicator member means having a property variable in accordance with the

history of the conditions in the environment in which the apparatus was used, the environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of the apparatus during use of the apparatus, the environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means determining the degree of deterioration of the recoverable and reusable unit before the unit is reconditioned for reuse by permitting a determination of the value of the property thereof, variable in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which the apparatus was used, wherein the environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means maintains the state of deterioration of the property, said management system comprising a device to manage the apparatus, wherein a process to be applied to the unit is determined according to a result of measurement, by an inspection device, of the property of the environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means.

8. (Previously Presented) A management system according to claim 7, wherein said process to be applied to said unit is a process to determine whether or not said unit is to be reused.

9. (Previously Presented) A management system according to claim 7, wherein said process to be applied to said unit is a process to determine whether said unit is to be reused as it is, or to be reused after cleansing, or to be sent to a material-based classifying recycling process.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a recoverable and reusable unit performing a function independent of determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, which is recoverable and reusable after use; and

an environmental history indicator member means for indicating the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit before said unit is reconditioned for reuse in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used, said environmental history indicator means being disposed inside said [[t]] apparatus to determine the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, said environmental history indicator member means having a property variable in accordance with an environmental history of use of said apparatus and being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus,

wherein said environmental history indicator member means maintains the state of deterioration of the property, and

wherein the value of said variable property is determined by using an inspection device to inspect said environmental history indicator member means, so that said environmental history indicator member means comprises means for providing the value of the variable property in response to inspection by the inspection device before the unit is reconditioned for reuse.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus including a unit which is recoverable and reusable after use, said apparatus comprising:

an environmental history indicator member disposed inside said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member having a property variable according to an

environmental history of use of said apparatus and being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus,

wherein said unit includes an optical member, and said environmental history indicator member has a property which varies according to an environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity,

wherein said environmental history indicator member is an optical filter having a light transmitting property which varies according to an environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity, and

wherein said optical filter as said environmental history indicator member is composed of an ND filter, copper phosphate glass, gelatin or optical glass having a refractive index of substantially 1.6 to 1.65 and an Abbe number of substantially 60.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the property of said environmental history indicator member deteriorates over time and wherein said environmental history indicator member maintains the state of deterioration of the property.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus including a lens unit which is recoverable and reusable after use, said apparatus further comprising:

an environmental history indicator member means for indicating the degree of deterioration of said lens unit before said lens unit is reconditioned for reuse in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said lens unit was used, said environmental history indicator means being disposed inside said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member means having a property variable according to an environmental history of use

of said apparatus and being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the property of said environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means deteriorates over time and wherein said environmental history indicator ~~member~~ means maintains the state of deterioration of the property.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, 10, or 11, wherein said unit is a lens unit.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 7, wherein said unit is a lens unit.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, 10, 11, ~~or~~ 13, 19, 20, or 21, wherein said apparatus is an image reading apparatus, a photo printer, or a video camera.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 7, wherein said apparatus is an image reading apparatus, a photo printer, or a video camera.

19. (New) An apparatus for indicating the history of the environmental conditions of the environment in which said apparatus is used before a unit thereof is reconditioned for reuse to permit a determination of the level of deterioration of a recoverable and reusable unit of said

apparatus and a determination of whether the recoverable and reusable unit can be recovered and reused, said apparatus comprising:

    a recoverable and reusable unit performing a function independent of determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, which is recoverable and reusable after use of said unit and said apparatus in the environment, depending on the level of deterioration of said unit, which depends on the history of environmental conditions of the environment in which said apparatus was used; and

    an environmental history indicator member disposed inside said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member having a property variable in accordance with the history of the conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used, said environmental history indicator member being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit before said unit is reconditioned for reuse by permitting a determination of the value of the property thereof, variable in accordance with the history of conditions in the environment in which said apparatus was used,

    wherein said environmental history indicator member maintains the state of deterioration of the property,

    wherein said unit is a lens unit.

20. (New)     An apparatus comprising:

a recoverable and reusable unit performing a function independent of determining the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, which is recoverable and reusable after use; and

an environmental history indicator member disposed inside said apparatus to determine the degree of deterioration of said recoverable and reusable unit, said environmental history indicator member having a property variable in accordance with an environmental history of use of said apparatus and being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus,

wherein said environmental history indicator member maintains the state of deterioration of the property, and

wherein the value of said variable property is determined by using an inspection device to inspect said environmental history indicator member, so that said environmental history indicator member comprises means for providing the value of the variable property in response to inspection by the inspection device before the unit is reconditioned for reuse,

wherein said unit is a lens unit.

21. (New) An apparatus including a unit which is recoverable and reusable after use, said apparatus comprising:

an environmental history indicator member disposed inside said apparatus, said environmental history indicator member having a property variable according to an environmental history of use of said apparatus and being arranged so as not to participate in any functions of said apparatus during use of said apparatus,

wherein said unit is a lens unit and includes an optical member, and said environmental history indicator member has a property which varies according to an environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity,

wherein said environmental history indicator member is an optical filter having a light transmitting property which varies according to an environmental history with respect to temperature and/or humidity, and

wherein said optical filter as said environmental history indicator member is composed of an ND filter, copper phosphate glass, gelatin or optical glass having a refractive index of substantially 1.6 to 1.65 and an Abbe number of substantially 60.